مؤتمر صحفي في ختام القمتين العربية الصينية والخليجية الصينية

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:00:00
and protecting its interests. These summits represent a new starting point for the partnership between our countries and the People's Republic of China to achieve common development and a strong impetus to strengthen the deep-rooted friendly relations that connect the countries of the region with the People's Republic of China.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:00:19
The Saudi-Chinese summit witnessed a discussion session between the wise leadership, may God protect them, and His Excellency the Chinese President, which focused on strengthening the distinguished historical and strategic partnership between the two countries, investing their political and economic potential in serving their common interests, and enhancing existing efforts through the high-level Saudi-Chinese joint committee, and intensifying communication between the governmental and private sectors in the two countries to explore commercial and investment opportunities, and translate them into a tangible partnership. The discussions included a plan to align the Kingdom's Vision 2030 with the Belt and Road Initiative.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:00:59
We agreed on the importance of accelerating the pace of alignment between its projects in the country, and deepening practical cooperation between the two sides in the fields of economy, trade, transport, infrastructure, and energy, in a way that achieves mutual benefit and common development. The summit witnessed the signing of the strategic partnership document between the Kingdom and China, and a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding aimed at elevating relations to broader horizons.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:01:30
Regarding the Gulf-Chinese summit, we affirmed the joint endeavor to strengthen political and economic relations between China and the Gulf countries, and we adopted the joint action plan 2023-2027. Our discussions touched on continuing work to reach a free trade agreement between China and the GCC countries.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:01:51
The Arab-Chinese summit provided an opportunity to appreciate the historical ties and rich interactions between our ancient civilizations, and to consult on ways to achieve peace and development in the region. We also affirmed through the summit our support for the Arab-Chinese community initiative for a shared

future towards a new era, and for the important role of the Arab-Chinese Cooperation Forum in strengthening collective cooperation between China and Arab countries.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:02:17
And now I give the floor to His Excellency Brother Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the Arab League, please proceed.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:02:25
Thank you, thank you, Your Highness. First, we should extend our thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister. In fact, there was wonderful hospitality, excellent organization, and extremely important results.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:03:03
The most important thing in all this momentum that we saw today, or that we witnessed today, is the Arab-Chinese understanding on three main documents. Three main documents.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:03:24
The Riyadh Declaration, which is a political declaration that includes the common visions between the two sides regarding regional and international issues of common concern. Foremost among these issues is the Palestinian issue, and many other issues in the Riyadh Declaration.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:03:46
But there was also the document of the broad outlines of the comprehensive cooperation plan between the People's Republic of China and the Arab countries, which includes aspects of practical cooperation between the two sides in various political, economic, social, and cultural fields. And anything you can think of, anything you can think of, you will find it in this document.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:04:12
And then the third and final document, deepening the Arab-Chinese strategic partnership for peace and development, which is a document that emphasizes elevating cooperation between the Arab and Chinese sides to broader horizons at the bilateral level and at the level of the Arab-Chinese Cooperation Forum.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:04:35
The hope is that we will continue at this pace in implementing and following up on these documents, and that the forum will continue to be held alternately

between China and the Arab countries, whether at the ministerial level or at the summit level.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:05:00
As Secretary-General of the Arab League, I imagine that there are currently twenty areas where meetings are held periodically, which reveals a developing relationship.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:05:21
I mean, there are Arab forums with many international parties. There is the European Union, there is Latin America, there is India, there is Russia, there is Japan.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:05:39
But the Chinese-Arab forum has made, in fact, significant progress.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:05:51
So that's what I'd like to add.

أمين عام مجلس التعاون الخليجي 00:05:53
Thank you very much, Your Excellency. And I take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks for what you personally and your team in the Secretariat have done in terms of good organization, arrangement, and preparation for this Arab-Chinese summit. So thank you. And now I give the floor to His Excellency the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, please proceed.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:06:19
Thank you, Your Highness the Minister, and thank you, Your Excellency the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and good evening to you all. I welcome you to this press conference at the conclusion of this long day and these many summits hosted by Riyadh, which reflect the regional and international standing of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and this large gathering which today found an opportunity to present many topics and exchange views on all issues.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:06:48
And in this brief, I will touch upon the most important outcomes of the Supreme Council of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf in its forty-third session, where the Supreme Council welcomed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's intention to present the second phase of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' vision to enhance joint Gulf action. The first phase was presented and approved in 2016. Now the second phase, God willing, will be presented, and it is a

completion of the vision in its first phase, which undoubtedly moves many files related to Gulf integration in the economic and developmental fields.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:07:32
The Supreme Council also approved the unified industrial organization law or system for the GCC countries, the unified law for international land transport between the GCC countries, and the unified law for the management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture for the GCC countries, as well as blessed the launch of the Future Factories Initiative. It also approved the general framework of the strategic plan for joint media cooperation for the Gulf countries, the charter for the preservation of urban heritage, and the general framework of the Gulf tourism strategy 2023-2030. A set of laws that were approved and blessed by the Supreme Council today, all of which revolve around achieving some of the objectives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' vision in its first phase, which undoubtedly seeks to achieve Gulf integration in its broadest scope.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:08:29
The Supreme Council affirmed the importance of the Middle East Green Initiative, and certainly supported the Saudi Green Initiative, which is a significant contribution from the GCC countries and the initiatives launched by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to support and enhance international efforts in confronting the challenges of climate change. Of course, the statement was published and distributed and included many topics, but I just wanted to touch on the most important points in it.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:09:00
Regarding the statement of the Riyadh Gulf-Chinese Summit for Cooperation and Development, which was the first Gulf-Chinese summit reflecting the great historical relations between the GCC countries and China, as China is the first trading partner of the GCC countries. The volume of inter-trade and trade exchange between the GCC countries and the People's Republic of China in 2021 reached 228 billion US dollars.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:09:37
There is great desire from both sides to push this cooperation into broader areas. There was an emphasis on the importance of enhancing cooperation. This was reflected in the joint action plan for the coming period 2023-2027, which covered fifteen areas of joint cooperation between the GCC countries and China. China is the second largest economy. There is great interest in advancing these relations with China. There is a desire to complete free trade negotiations with the People's Republic of China. And there are many areas that were addressed in the joint action plan that was approved today, and which we will, God willing, work to

follow up with the working teams, each in its specialty, to achieve what is hoped for from this plan.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:10:31
Thank you, Your Highness.

أمين عام مجلس التعاون الخليجي 00:10:32
Thank you very much, Your Excellency. And I also take this opportunity to thank Your Excellency and the working team in the Secretariat for all that you have provided to arrange these two important summits. I also want to take this opportunity to extend a special thank you to Your Excellency for what you have provided during your tenure as Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council. And you were truly a Secretary in every sense of the word, and you gave a lot tirelessly to strengthen the path of joint Gulf action. So thank you very much, Your Excellency.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:11:05
Thank you.

أمين عام مجلس التعاون الخليجي 00:11:06
Thank you.

أمين عام مجلس التعاون الخليجي 00:11:08
Thank you. We'll give the mic to Al-Qahera News Channel in the first row here. If you could stop it.

أمل الحناوي 00:11:14
Amal Al-Hannawi, Al-Qahera News Channel. My question to His Excellency the Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs: How can Arab-Chinese cooperation contribute to solving a number of current international crises, which the peoples of the entire world are suffering from, foremost among them the food and energy crises? Also, you signed a strategic partnership with China. Many are wondering about the nature of this partnership and what are the gains for the Kingdom from it. My second question also to the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council: How does rapprochement with China contribute to supporting the security and stability of the Arabian Gulf region? Also, a final question for...

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:12:02
His Excellency the Secretary-General, Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, you spoke about the Palestinian issue. There is an escalation on the ground in the West Bank by the Israeli occupation forces, and there is also a right-wing government being formed under the leadership of Netanyahu. What action is required from the

international community to prevent the situation from exploding in the Palestinian territories? Thank you.

أمين عام مجلس التعاون الخليجي 00:12:24
Thank you very much. There is no doubt that cooperation between a group of the weight, influence, and size of the Arab States, the League of Arab States, and China, the second largest economy in the world, will contribute to addressing many challenges, whether challenges that concern us or challenges in the wider world. And we in the Arab world, by virtue of being all developing countries, have a great interest and high focus on the concerns of the developing world, and China also has an interest in this aspect. And cooperation between us and exploring opportunities for coordination and addressing these challenges by pooling our resources, and not only with China, in fact. I mean, we see the Arab League and the group of Arab countries keen to extend a hand to everyone and cooperate with everyone. But there is no doubt that cooperation with China, given its size and weight, is extremely important and will help in addressing these challenges.

أمين عام مجلس التعاون الخليجي 00:13:18
As for the Saudi-Chinese strategic partnership, it is extremely important. China is the second largest economy in the world. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the fifteenth largest economy in the world. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's economy this year is the fastest growing economy in the world, and it is expected to be the fastest growing in the G20 for a few years. By God's grace and praise. We expect to reach excellent and strong figures in economic growth this year. And this makes the opportunities available to both parties through this strategic partnership great.

أمين عام مجلس التعاون الخليجي 00:13:54
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with its strategic location in the middle between the West and the East, provides the People's Republic of China with the opportunity to build bridges between the two sides of the globe, and also to benefit from the major logistical capabilities being built under the patronage of Vision 2030 and the major infrastructure we have. At the same time, the Chinese economy is the most important market for us, as it is the first trading partner for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. And strengthening this partnership and seeking to develop it to a broader horizon than just traditional trade exchange through technical cooperation, technology transfer, and two-way investment, all of this will enhance growth opportunities for both countries and give us the opportunity to explore not only what benefits us, but also what benefits our two regions.

أمين عام مجلس التعاون الخليجي 00:14:51
I will now give the floor first to Your Excellency, then to His Royal Highness.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:14:57
Thank you, Your Highness. I do not believe that the issue of condemnation and condemning Israeli actions is sufficient today. Therefore, several axes of action are required. With regard to the General Assembly of the United Nations, we must move quickly before the General Assembly to demand full membership for Palestine in the United Nations. Because it is not enough for the international community to only support the Palestinians; let them sit as a permanent state in the United Nations. This is a demand.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:15:49
The other demand, I believe, is that it is very important to expedite obtaining an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice regarding the status of the Israeli presence on Palestinian land. The Palestinians say it is an occupation and must end. Therefore, the International Court of Justice must give its opinion as soon as possible.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:16:15
The third thing is that those who support Israel or claim to understand Israeli positions must warn the Israeli side or this government when it is formed. Because it is known that the nominated Prime Minister requested an additional fourteen days to continue efforts to form this government. Warning the government by its friends is very important. The international community confronting any Israeli actions is very important.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:16:54
Palestinian unity must accelerate the Palestinians in promising their positions, and not allow Israel to exploit this division by claiming that there is no Arab partner. We heard today President Abu Mazen say that there is no Israeli partner, and indeed there is no Israeli partner because he does not want one. So what is needed is movement, rapid movement, and continuous movement.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:17:29
And those who speak about what are called values, values, are required to equalize their positions on all these values. Meaning that the impermissibility of occupying lands by force cannot be applied in one space or area of land, and not applied in another area. And so on. Thank you.

أمين عام مجلس التعاون الخليجي 00:17:56
Thank you. Of course.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:17:58
Thank you, Your Highness. The question was: How does rapprochement with China contribute to supporting the security and stability of the Arabian Gulf

region? And perhaps I would like to emphasize in this part that the Cooperation Council, since its establishment, has always been keen to be a pillar of security and stability in the region. The security and stability of the Gulf region is very important for the security and stability of the world. Therefore, communication with China is an extension of communication that has taken place with many countries of the world and many groups in the countries of the world.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:18:30
Whoever observes and follows the great movement that the capitals of the GCC countries have witnessed recently, many heads of state, many heads of government, heads of organizations, heads of bodies, ministers, leaders, major events held in this region, qualitative initiatives launched from this region, all aim to bring points of view closer. Second: for the world to be aware of the importance of collective action to enhance security and stability. And this is what the Cooperation Council has provided, and this is what the Cooperation Council believes in.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:19:06
It is always a partner in promoting security and stability, and it is a partner in development. Therefore, the presence of the Chinese President today in this important meeting, at this important time, reflects the position that has been achieved, thank God, for the Cooperation Council system as a reliable partner in the international arena, and also a partner that enjoys high credibility and seeks to achieve security and stability. And at the same time, it pushes for sustainable development efforts to benefit everyone. Thank you.

أمين عام مجلس التعاون الخليجي 00:19:37
Thank you.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:19:38
The second question: Xinhua News Agency.

جابدوان 00:19:43
Thank you very much for this rare opportunity. And peace be upon you. I am Gabduan from Xinhua News Agency, an official news agency in China. So what do you think, what are the new incentives that these summits between China and the Gulf countries and other Arab countries will offer to enhance relations and cooperation between China and the Arab countries? Thank you very much.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:20:12
Thank you very much. And perhaps the main title is cooperation and development for the Gulf-Chinese and Arab-Chinese summits. There was a great focus on having qualitative outcomes that support this process.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:20:24
And there were outcomes focusing on economic development and raising the level of trade exchange, but also in the fields of education, culture, and various other fields to enhance cooperation and coordination between the two groups: the Arabian Gulf group and the wider Arab group, and the People's Republic of China.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:20:50
And these two groups, by virtue of their size, and in contrast, China by its size, generating and enhancing cooperation between them, this is possible for both parties. It gives us opportunities to enhance our capabilities to exploit them more strongly, and also to explore more opportunities. I don't know if it is.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:21:12
I mean, if you allow me, Your Highness, the broad outline document for the comprehensive cooperation plan between the Arab countries and the People's Republic of China, whoever reads it, and I spent a long time reading it, will see the intensity of the upcoming activity. And in a way that can be overwhelming. I mean, the political field is understood, but then look at the other fields.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:21:43
Economy, trade, investment, and finance. Full activation of the role of economic committees. Increasing direct investments. Enhancing bilateral and multilateral cooperation within the framework of the multilateral trading system. Continuing to enhance cooperation in productive capacity. This is just in trade.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:22:00
Look at intellectual property. Continuing to enhance cooperation in the areas of mutual recognition of standards, taxes, and intellectual property. Enhancing cooperation with the Chinese National Intellectual Property Administration.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:22:13
Energy. Cooperation in the field of oil and gas. Cooperation in the field of clean energy. Cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:22:22
Housing, urban development, transportation, and other infrastructure. Agriculture. I mean, water. Digital economy and space innovation. Deepening cooperation within the framework of e-commerce. Full activation of the role. Something very, very, very intense.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:22:44

Tourism. Environment and climate. Whoever sees the deepening of the strategic partnership will find other axes in the second document. And therefore,

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:23:00
Energy supplies and maritime corridors. The importance of preserving the water security of Arab countries. Something extremely intense, truly. And it enriches this relationship.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:23:19
We give the microphone to Al Sharq TV.

جابدوان 00:23:24
Mohammed Al-Bishi from Al Sharq TV. The question is for His Highness the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Your Highness, the Minister, Saudi Arabia announced a comprehensive strategic partnership with China. Should we consider that, as some reports indicate, this is at the expense of the historical relationship with the United States of America? And how can the relationship between two competing poles like Beijing and Washington be reconciled? My other question, if you allow me. Washington, the White House, denied today any Saudi-Emirati mediation regarding the release of the American detainee in Russia. Any comment? Thank you, Your Highness.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:23:58
Thank you. To begin with, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not operate on single tracks. We believe that given the size of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as one of the G20 countries, and as the fifteenth largest economy in the world, and a rapidly developing economy, we must be open to cooperation with everyone. And there is no doubt that cooperation with the second largest economy in the world is an essential basis for the continuation of the development process in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. However, this does not mean that we are not still seeking cooperation with the world's largest economy, nor does it mean that we are not seeking cooperation with all major and other economies in the world.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:24:38
Multilateral cooperation, and cooperation with many parties, is what will move us forward in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, but it will also move the entire world into a new phase of growth and prosperity. And we cannot build this growth and prosperity by excluding opportunities from one party or another. So we must be open to cooperation with everyone. And this is the philosophy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: to cooperate with everyone to achieve common interests.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:25:07

The Saudi-Chinese strategic partnership has important and promising factors, and it supports the development process in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and it also supports development in China and in the region. Likewise, we have an existing strategic partnership with the United States of America, just as we have an existing strategic partnership with India, Japan, France, Britain, and Germany. All of these are partnerships, meaning we officially have strategic partnerships and committees that follow up on work with all these countries.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:25:37
Why? Because the Saudi economy is in a phase of great expansion, and we need all these partnerships and all this cooperation to be able to achieve our goals. At the same time, we aspire to be able to benefit from this openness to all parties in supporting the development process not only in the Kingdom, but in our neighborhood, in our region, and in the world. Because as I said, we believe that competition is good, but engaging in polarization is extremely negative.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:26:09
Extremely negative not only for the two parties that may be drawn into this polarization, but negative for the global economy and negative for global peace and security. Therefore, we always call for exploring opportunities for cooperation, and if it must be competition, then fair competition, but we never believe in polarization or choosing between one party and another.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:26:31
Regarding the mediation, all I can say is that I am aware of the efforts of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince in mediation, and he succeeded in a previous stage in the well-known operation of releasing ten people, and I am aware of His Royal Highness's personal efforts regarding this recent basketball player and his involvement and personal intervention to facilitate this release. As for what others say, I cannot comment on it.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:27:05
We'll give the mic to the Financial Times. Financial Times. Here.

00:27:11 Speaker 9
Thank you Your Highness and the attendees. Thank you very much. If I may ask a question. Actually, my colleague had just asked the main question about the elephant in the room today, but if I could just have a quick follow-up.

00:27:25 Speaker 9
The United States had warned, I think during the Manama dialogue, that certain types of cooperation with China would put a ceiling on U.S. cooperation in the region. And I think today we saw declarations and yesterday about cooperation

on 5G, defense or security generally, broadly speaking, and also peaceful use of nuclear energy. So do you see any perhaps a different trajectory in your future relations with the U.S. and China from this?

00:27:59 Speaker 9
And a quick, just a very quick question if I may. The Chinese president today alluded to pushing for oil trade in Chinese currency. You've heard obviously the speculation about that in the past few months. Is that something that Saudi Arabia would consider, oil trade in the Chinese currency? Thank you very much.

00:28:17 وزير الخارجية السعودي
Thank you. On trajectories, I think what we and it was in my answer earlier, we are very much focused on cooperation with all parties. And I think competition is a good thing. So we are in a competitive marketplace. We have to compete as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with a number of economies, and we compete very actively, and we have a very detailed strategy, Vision 2030, to make the country's economy more competitive.

00:28:47 وزير الخارجية السعودي
Part of that drive to being a competitive economy is cooperating and being open to cooperating with as many partners as possible. So we feel it absolutely necessary that we are fully engaged with the largest economy in the world, which is the U.S., which is our traditional strategic partner, and we will continue to have a very strong engagement with the U.S. across the board, both in security and in political affairs, but even economically. There are any number of programs and opportunities that we continue to work on with the U.S.

00:29:23 وزير الخارجية السعودي
On the other hand, China as the second largest.

00:29:25 وزير الخارجية السعودي
On the other hand, China. Both of them work with the United States. Also, on the other hand, with China. We seek to play an important role

00:29:37 وزير الخارجية السعودي
to support economic diversification and to make our economy more resilient. We do not view this as bias, but rather we seek to provide a healthier and more diverse environment.

00:30:03 وزير الخارجية السعودي
I don't know anything about it.

00:30:07 أحمد أبو الغيط

Hello. I am Hamad Al Mahmoud from Sky News Arabia. My question is directed to you, Your Highness. After the success of the recent Saudi-Emirati mediation in the American-Russian exchange, is it possible that we will see another Saudi-Chinese or Gulf-Chinese mediation, specifically regarding Ukraine and Russia, to stop the war?

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:30:31
In fact, Saudi Arabia is open to all mediation efforts, of course, but nothing of this sort has been discussed.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:30:36
Thank you. People's Daily newspaper. Yes, please.

حمد المحمود 00:30:50
Thank you Your Highness, Your Excellencies. I'm from People's Daily, China. Could you please introduce the cooperation between China and Arab countries in the aerospace field, and what is the prospect of future cooperation in the technology field?

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:31:07
It is one of the promising future possibilities regarding the technology sector in China and Arab countries. Thank you, since this question relates to Arab countries, I will refer it to the Secretary-General of the Arab League. I believe I read in this reference

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:31:32
about technical cooperation.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:31:40
I have to reread it so I can. Yes, there is. Yes, all I can say is that there is technical cooperation in

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:31:59
certain areas.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:32:04
There are references to. Yes, artificial intelligence was also mentioned

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:32:14
regarding space, in space exploration,

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:32:22
and satellites. Cooperation in this field as well,

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:32:31
and desertification, and many files, and other elements. We do not intend to

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:32:47
reveal the full content of this file. Why? Because it contains a lot of

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:32:57
materials and elements, the subject areas related to this cooperation, which we will make exclusive

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:33:11
to the Arab-Chinese summit to discuss.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:33:21
My question is for you, Your Royal Highness. We want to see what position the Kingdom places China in its foreign policy. Do you see the Saudi-Chinese relationship as a model framework for global relations with China?

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:33:52
Yes, China is our trading partner, and it is one of the most important political systems for us in Saudi Arabia, because China is the second largest economy in the world, and it is, of course, important for any country in terms of foreign policy. We have strong cooperation between us and China, and we work together on many issues and problems regarding, for example, the global environmental situation and others. Therefore, we work side by side, not only in relation to our countries, but also at the global level. And I know that, as we saw today at the summit, there is great interest in building a strong relationship between China and all Arab countries.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:35:02
Boukhzam, LBCI Lebanon. Three very quick questions. First, will China play any role in the somewhat strained relations between a number of Arab countries and Iran?

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:35:13
Second question, I return to the topic of the relationship with the United States of America. If the Republicans were in power today, would Saudi Arabia have boosted its relationship with China to this level and gathered all Arab countries in Riyadh to meet with China?

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:35:29
And the third question relates to my country, Lebanon. We noticed that in the various statements issued by you in various meetings, whether bilateral or non-

bilateral, there was a mention of Lebanon. I realize that there was a mention of a number of other countries, but in light of all that is being said about Saudi Arabia's lack of interest in Lebanon, is there a specific message through the mention of Lebanon in all these meetings? Thank you.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:35:59
Thank you, wasn't that the first question? Excuse me.

حمد المحمود 00:36:01
The first question is, will China also play a role in the strained relationship with China?

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:36:05
And the second?

حمد المحمود 00:36:06
The second question is, if the Republicans were in power today, would they have moved more than usual?

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:36:12
As for, we know that China is very keen on the security and stability of the region. Just as we are very keen on the security and stability of the region, just as all Gulf countries are keen on the security and stability of the region, just as all Arab countries are keen on the security and stability of the region. And part of the security and stability of the region is undoubtedly reaching a positive relationship between the countries of the region and Iran, because it is ultimately part of the region, and there is no way for the region to be stable except with a good relationship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Gulf countries, other countries in the region, and our neighbor Iran. And we will continue to strive for that, we will continue to extend our hand to our neighbors in Iran, seeking to find a way for this positive relationship. And we hear positive statements from them from time to time, and we hope that we can all translate them, God willing, into a real positive relationship that serves not only the stability of the region, but also the prosperity of all our peoples, whether the people of the Kingdom or the Iranian people, and this is available, but it requires positivity and seriousness from all parties. And we welcome all parties that may seek to harness the appropriate atmosphere for that.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:37:28
As for the second question, in fact, first, Chinese and Arab cooperation is not a product of the moment. That's what I was. Yes, so I will allow His Excellency to add, but it is not a product of the moment, it is something built over years. It is

now crowned by this first summit, and the Secretary will remind us when this summit was decided, but it has been for some time.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:37:53
And for us, as I mentioned, the partnership with China is important, and its importance comes primarily from the fact that China is, for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia first, but also I think most Arab countries, if not all, are the first trading partner. And thus, building a strong relationship and building a fabric of common interests must be a top priority for us.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:38:19
And I do not mean that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and as far as I know, all Arab countries do not set their policies based on the interests of others, they set their policies based on their own interests. And we will pursue our interests, and we will continue to formulate our policies based on those interests, regardless of viewpoints. And we will remain at the same time open to dialogue with all our partners, West and East, to ensure that there is a full understanding of what we are doing, and to strive to achieve these common interests as well. Common interests are not only for us with China, but for us with America, for us with others. So we pursue our interests, and we find our interests in the West and we find them in the East, and wherever we find them, we will work to achieve them. With you, please.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:39:12
Thank you, Your Highness. We should not imagine that Arab policies, Arab stances, or the momentum we are witnessing at this moment are the result of last month or last year. The forum was launched in 2004, and its idea was conceived in 2001. Regarding this summit specifically, its idea emerged in 2019, and in 2019, I believe it was a Republican administration, not because the Democratic administration came in 2020. So in 2019, in a conversation I personally had in Beijing with the Chinese Foreign Minister, I told him: "What do you think if we elevate this forum?" He told me: "Well, that's in the hands of the Arab ministers." So when we returned, we worked on this issue, and it was decided in 2020. Meaning, we knew that there was a Saudi invitation to hold this forum since 2020. COVID-19 came upon us, COVID-19 delayed the process for years, and therefore, questions should not be raised or some should not imagine that this is a reaction to an event or action or measure taken last July or in January 2021. It's a story from 2019, from 2004, and from 2002.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:41:07
Thank you. We'll give the mic to Al Arabiya in the middle.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:41:11

I'll just answer about Lebanon, if you'll allow me. We wish Lebanon all the best, but Lebanon is in the hands of its leaders and its people. Now it is in the process of choosing two presidencies, and we hope that they succeed in choosing those who will lead this country to safety, to a path of real development, and to a path of real independence. This seems to be the case.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:41:45
It's clear, Your Highness, that the director of the center is telling us: "That's enough, let's go."

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:41:54
Yes.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:41:56
So I have no answer, I have nothing to add to this. In fact, we are only interested in monitoring the situation and our wishes for the Lebanese people to choose their path in achieving their prosperity, stability, independence, and dignity, and if they choose this path, they will find not only the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with them, but all Arab countries with them, God willing. And if you can bear with this quality, we can continue, we have no problem. Okay, Al Arabiya in the middle.

أمين عام مجلس التعاون الخليجي 00:42:28
Ahmed Baghat, Al Arabiya Channel. My question is for His Excellency the Secretary-General of all Arab countries and His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs. There was an economic and commercial agreement and consensus. Has this consensus and agreement been reflected politically in the China-Arab Summit regarding Iran and its interference in the affairs of some Arab countries? I mean, we are talking about actual consensus, not a consensus that some mention is written in statements, was there actual consensus or not?

أمين عام مجلس التعاون الخليجي 00:42:57
My second question, why is it that when there is a Saudi or Gulf rapprochement with not only China or even Russia, some talk about veiled messages being directed to the United States? From your point of view, why does this always happen? You say that this is a natural and strategic matter, but why always? Not only rapprochement with China, but even rapprochement with other poles such as Russia or others, is there talk of veiled messages being directed to the United States? Thank you.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:43:31
It's very simple, very simple. We have heard many Arab leaders talk about non-interference in internal affairs by external powers. And on the other hand, we saw President Xi Jinping talking about China not agreeing to interference in the

affairs of countries, but specifically on a certain country, this is not an issue because we understand the considerations that guide China in its positions, and they understand the considerations that guide Arab countries in their positions.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:44:13
I mean, in my speech today, I personally talked about nuclear non-proliferation, because there is a regional party seeking to build nuclear capabilities. There are doubts about whether it is peaceful or military, but there is also certainly a confirmed nuclear power on the ground called Israel. So, issues are discussed in their general principles.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:44:51
All I can say about this is that in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, our foreign policy is based on an important principle, which is how we support the path of development. And this is the basis on which we operate, and it is the basis on which the leadership has directed us that foreign policy is dedicated to supporting the path of development, to protecting our national gains and protecting our national security, and supporting our development projects and supporting what the leadership seeks through Vision 2030 and other programs in achieving sustainable prosperity for the Saudi people. And we will continue in this vein, how others analyze it, I leave that to them.

أمين عام مجلس التعاون الخليجي 00:45:32
We'll give the mic to Ten TV, the Egyptian channel.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:45:37
In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:45:42
In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Ten TV, the Egyptian channel.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:45:47
Your Excellency the Secretary-General, perhaps the most frequently asked question in the hall was: Is there an Arab shift towards the East or towards the South? And is this shift imposed by circumstances and geopolitical changes in the world and a repositioning of major powers? Or has it re-engineered relations according to the interests of Arab countries? That's the first question.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:46:13
The second question, Your Excellency spoke about Arab water security being included in the document, and also today there was an invitation from President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the Egyptian President, to the forum to put Arab water

security on its priority agenda. And there was also an invitation to the Ethiopian side to activate these discussions for the benefit of all peoples.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:46:37
I mean, what can the forum and all Arab countries do to preserve Arab water security? I'm very sorry, a question that has personally occupied me since last year, which is, everything we are doing now is repairing what was corrupted in what is called the Arab Spring. How can the nation-state be preserved from what we can call the "Spring tumor"?

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:47:02
Thank you for.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:47:10
I'm actually smiling and laughing at your talk about what is called the Arab Spring, which I have called, since its time in 2011, and perhaps I was the only one, and maybe Ahmed Moussa too. In my opinion, it was always called the Arab Destruction. The Arab Destruction happened and that's it. But we hope that the nation-state can restore itself. Some countries have restored themselves effectively and capably, and in some countries, efforts are still being made. We're talking about the topic of

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:47:52
the political significance of, and is there a move towards the East or otherwise? Let me be very honest and frank with you. Since the 1980s, we have witnessed a growing economic and technological power in Asia and the Pacific. We all remember the story of the Four Tigers, and they were talking about the Four Tigers: Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, and so on. We all know Deng Xiaoping and what he did in China starting from 1979 or 1980 when he came to power and launched the building of modern China, and we saw modern China growing with immense economic power. And we saw the Western world talking about the shift of the economic center of gravity to the East. These are all facts that we all know.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:49:01
So, the Arabs who want to build their societies and build their ability to provide prosperity for their people, they also have the ability to see and therefore turn eastward in a launch towards economic and technological cooperation with these rising powers. This is one aspect.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:49:28
The other aspect is that no one claims, and no one should claim, at least from my point of view, that you should forget the United States and forget the

Western world because they are one power, and they have the largest economic power in the world and the largest military power in the world, and their budget is 730 billion dollars a year, which equals the next nine or ten countries in military spending. Therefore, no one is shifting, and no one is playing power balance politics, and there is no Cold War yet.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:50:16
I mean, perhaps we will witness a Cold War, and perhaps we will not. You ask me, "Why won't we witness it?" I tell you, because there is perhaps a safety valve in the world. What is the safety valve in the world? It is that the volume of US-China trade at the moment I am speaking with you is 600 or 700 billion dollars a year. The Soviet Union and the United States in the 1970s and 1980s had a trade volume of only several billion. Therefore, the possibilities of conflict were present, and it did not happen. So why would it happen today? No one will work on power balances or the Cold War or relations between parties.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:51:04
What is happening now with China is a recognition of a growing economic and technological power with its capabilities and its starting points. And the Arabs want to build their societies and benefit from this. Especially since when it offers you this, it does not offer it to you with conditions. It offers it without conditions. It does not tell you, "Well, you have this or that or this or that." And "this" is in the poet's belly.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:51:41
Water security.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:51:45
Water security. Arab countries stand with Sudan and Egypt on water security. And there are resolutions issued by the Arab League and the Ministerial Council stating that we demand a binding settlement or a binding agreement, and we support the Sudanese demand and the Egyptian demand. And we demand that Ethiopia negotiate

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:52:15
in good faith. And we hope to achieve this. Regarding the declaration issued between the Arabs and China, it has the same meaning. Meaning that water security for countries is essential. COP27 revealed this very clearly. The issue is not just food security, but also water security, because there is no food without water. Thank you.

أمين عام مجلس التعاون الخليجي 00:52:44
If you allow, if you allow. Okay. We give Al Jazeera here in the front.

أحمد أبو الغيط 00:52:51
Instead of the Al Jazeera quartet. My question is directed to His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan. Your Highness, have armament files and defense systems been discussed with the Chinese side in the three summits held in Riyadh?

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:53:06
No, this was not a topic for discussion because the summits that were held focused on economic and developmental areas, and this was the main focus of the discussion. I mean, their outcomes are fully announced anyway, whether it's the China-Saudi summit, the China-GCC summit, or the China-Arab summit.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:53:28
And the truth is, the relationship with China is much deeper than these considerations. The relationship with China, as I mentioned earlier, is the second largest economy in the world, and as His Excellency just explained, engaging in a strategic economic and commercial partnership with China is crucial, I believe, for all countries.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:53:49
And through this partnership, we work to strengthen the path of development in the Arab world. And our main title for these summits is cooperation and development. And this was chosen carefully. It was not a random choice. It had its implications. And we continue to build this relationship with China and with our other partners.

أمين عام مجلس التعاون الخليجي 00:54:12
We give the question to colleagues from Asharq Al-Awsat here in the front.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:54:20
Hello. Ghazi Al-Harithi from Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper. My question is to His Highness the Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs. Today was the first GCC-China and Arab-China summit-level meeting. There is a very high-level economic partnership between Arab countries and China. Can the summit meetings held today in Riyadh be built upon so that the political partnership between Arab countries, specifically Gulf countries, reaches the same level as the already high economic partnership? Thank you.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:54:57
Between Arab countries or between Arab and Chinese, you mean? Arab and Chinese, of course. I mean, the political partnership between the Gulf and Arab countries is established and existing, and it is a basis for joint Arab action. As I mentioned earlier, for us in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and I believe many Arab countries, development is the driving force. Development is the driving

force not only for holding these summits. But it is what we derive our foreign policies from. And political action, if it does not serve your economic and developmental interests and enhance the well-being of your people, then in reality, this is a waste of your national resources.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:55:33
Therefore, we work in this area. And this means that there is no doubt that there is political engagement with China, just as there is political engagement for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with all parties in the world. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an active party on the political scene and has an important role not only in the region but beyond. But we in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia focus on harnessing this political role to serve our interests and our developmental interests first, including protecting our security in order to protect this development path, but also to protect the security and stability of the region and to harness ways to enhance

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:56:10
economic growth among the countries of our region.

أمين عام مجلس التعاون الخليجي 00:56:15
Thank you, Your Highnesses and Excellencies. And thank you for your attendance.

وزير الخارجية السعودي 00:56:19
Thank you and God bless you. And I apologize for what we couldn't take more of. Thank you.